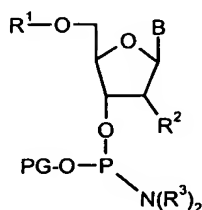


CLAIMS

1. A process for the purification of an oligonucleotide synthon, which comprises
 5 subjecting an organic solution comprising an oligonucleotide synthon and lower molecular
 weight impurities to nanofiltration whereby the ratio of an oligonucleotide synthon to lower
 molecular weight impurities in the solution is increased after the nanofiltration.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a
 nucleoside phosphoramidite or nucleoside H-phosphonate.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a
 compound of formula (1):



15 wherein R¹ is a protecting group, B is a nucleoside base, R² represents -H, -F -OR⁴,
 -NR⁵R⁶, -SR⁷, or a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, each R³ independently
 is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, PG is a phosphorus protecting group, R⁴ represents -H, a substituted
 or unsubstituted aliphatic group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a
 substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, an alcohol protecting group, or -(CH₂)_q-NR⁹R¹⁰, R⁵
 20 and R⁶ are each, independently, -H, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, or an
 amine protecting group, or R⁵ and R⁶ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are
 attached are a heterocyclyl group, R⁷ represents -H, a substituted or unsubstituted
 aliphatic group, or a thiol protecting group, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each, independently, -H, a
 substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl
 25 group, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, a substituted or unsubstituted
 aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaralkyl group or an amine protecting
 group, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a
 heterocyclyl group; and q is an integer from 1 to about 6.

4. A process according to claim 3, wherein PG is a betacyanoethyl group, and each
 R³ is an isopropyl group.

5. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration
 membrane is employed.

6. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein a nanofiltration membrane having a molecular weight cut off of 400 is employed.
- 5 7. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the process is operated in cross flow configuration.
8. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the process employs a pressure of from 15 to 35 bar.
- 10 9. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein fresh organic solvent corresponding to the volume passed through the nanofiltration membrane is added into the retained synthon solution.